

Standards Focus: Literary Response and Analysis

Chapter IV-VII

Goethe, a German writer and philosopher, wrote, "I had toward the poetic art a quite peculiar relation which was only practical after I had cherished in my mind for a long time a subject which possessed me . . . until at length, after I had molded it in silence . . . something resulted which might be regarded as a creation of my own; and finally, all at once, and almost instinctively, as if it had become ripe, I set it down on paper."

Directions: As you read the following passages, respond to the quotations by writing your thoughts and feelings about these sentences from the novel. Respond, question, make personal connections, evaluate, reflect, analyze or interpret. Be careful that you don't just explain the meaning of the sentences but that you explain its importance to the text. What do these words tell you about the time, the characters, the conflicts, and the lessons to be learned from reading the novel? Follow your teacher's instructions for setting up your literary response.

Words from the text

Your thoughts about the words from the text

1. I was so excited I could hardly stand it. I felt all sparkly inside---sort of scared and happy both at the same time. When lunchtime came I could hardly force myself to eat, although of course I did, so nobody would suspect anything. (pg. 46)	
2. I leveled the Brown Bess at his stomach and I said, "Don't come any closer Sam, or I'll shoot you." (pg. 55)	
3. So time passed and the war went on. Sometimes we'd read about Patriot victories, and other times about Tory victories. It all seemed confused. It was hard to tell who was really winning—partly because sometimes both sides claimed to have won the same battle. (pg. 64)	
4. Father shrugged. "I've been selling my beef at Verplancks Point for ten years, and I haven't yet asked who was going to eat it." "Times have changed, Meeker. Now we want to know who's doing the eating. And we don't want it to be Lobsterbacks." (pg. 94)	